

Easing the Transition of Military-Connected Children in Virginia Schools



AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

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How many military connected children are there?



Nationally

- Nearly 2.0 million military connected children (active duty, National Guard, and Reserve)
 - ✓ 37.4% are ages 0-5
 - ✓ 30.3% are ages 6-11
 - ✓ 25.1% are ages 12-18
 - ✓ 7.1% are ages 19+

Virginia

- 75,403 school age, and approximately 233,778 total, children of active duty members

Where are Military Connected Children?



Most are located along the 95/64 corridor

- **Hampton Roads**
 - JB Langley AFB
 - JB Fort Eustis
 - JEB Little Creek/Fort Story
 - NAS Oceana
 - Norfolk Naval Shipyard
 - NS Norfolk
 - NSA Hampton Roads
 - NSA Northwest Annex
 - NWS Yorktown
- **Central VA**
 - Fort Lee
- **Northern VA**
 - Fort A.P. Hill
 - Fort Belvoir
 - JB Myer/Henderson Hall
 - MCB Quantico
 - NSWC Dahlgren



However...

Where are Military Connected Children?



There are military connected children in

EVERY

Virginia school division!!

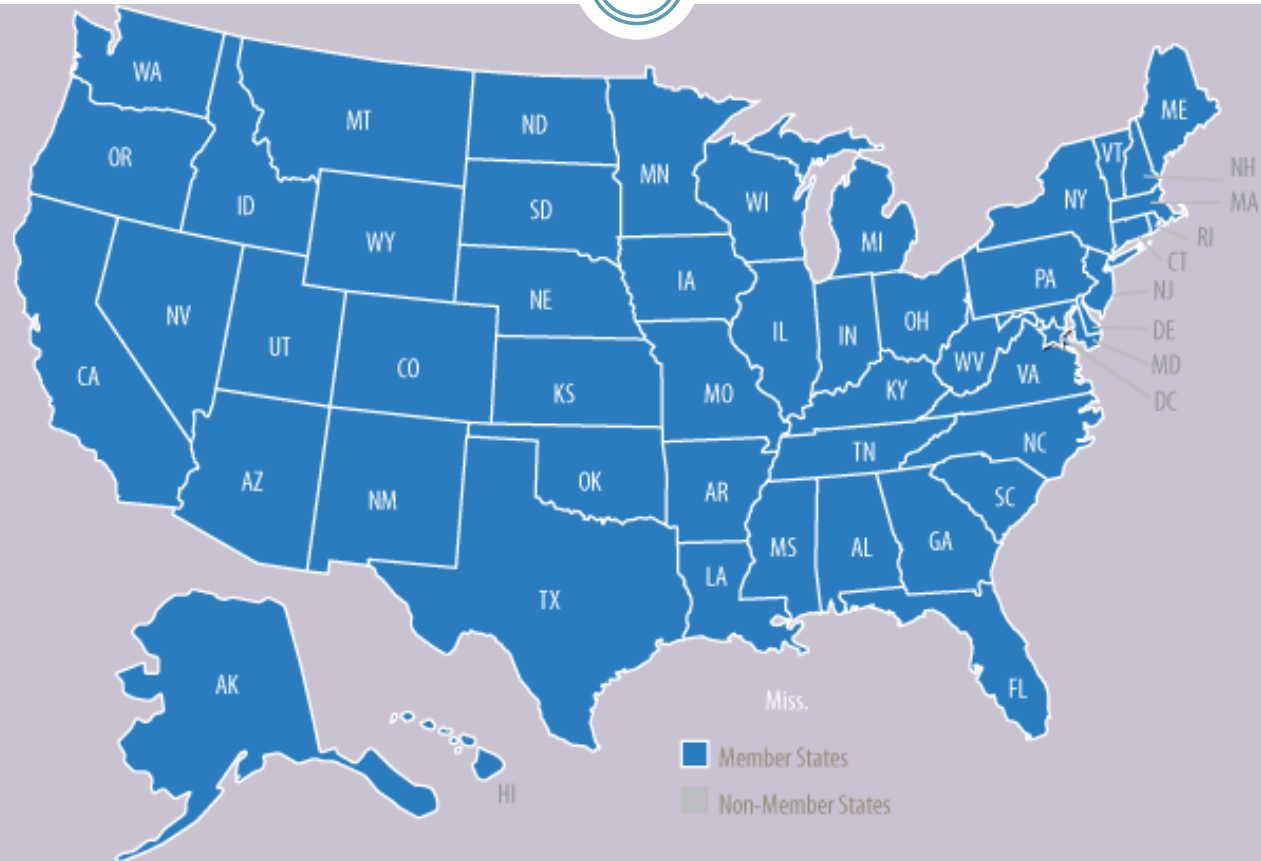
- Guard and Reserve families
- Children living with guardians while parents are deployed

Unique Aspects of Military Connected Children



- Most military children attend schools in six to nine different schools from kindergarten to 12th grade
- On average, a military student transfers to different schools more than twice during high school

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children



Virgin Islands

American Samoa

Puerto Rico

Guam

Northern Mariana Islands

Virginia Laws



- § 22.1-360. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

- Facilitates the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensures that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- Facilitates the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- Facilitates the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- Facilitates the on-time graduation of children of military families.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children



Eligibility

Children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services
 - National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders
 - Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for (1) year.
-
- Applies to public schools only

Interstate Compact – Educational Records



What is covered?

- Parents can receive a copy of unofficial records
- Receiving school must accept the unofficial records to enroll and place the student pending reception of official records
- Sending school must send official records within 10 business days of receiving a request from the receiving school

Interstate Compact - Enrollment



What is covered?

- 30 days to obtain any immunization(s) required by the receiving state

What is not covered?

- Physical forms

Interstate Compact – Enrollment (Kindergarten)

What is covered?

- A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of entrance age requirements if he or she has enrolled (registered) in kindergarten or 1st grade in a public school in the sending state where they met the age requirement
- A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has successfully completed kindergarten or 1st grade in the sending state

What is not covered?

- A student who does not meet the age requirement in the sending state
- A student who has not registered for kindergarten, even though they are of eligible age to have started

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Interstate Compact - Enrollment



What is covered?

- Special power of attorney is sufficient for enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent
- An LEA cannot charge tuition to military children placed in care of a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis”
- A student can continue to attend his or her current school even if living with a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis” in another division

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Interstate Compact - Enrollment

What is covered?

- Sending school shall facilitate the opportunity for military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified

What is not covered?

- Private organizations (VHSL)

Interstate Compact – Course/Program Placement

What is covered?

- Receiving state will initially honor placement in courses or programs based on the student's enrollment and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state
- Receiving state may subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment

What is not covered?

- Guarantee of continued enrollment if not qualified
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to create a course or additional space

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Interstate Compact – Students with Disabilities



What is covered?

- Receiving state will initially provide comparable services identified in the students Individual Education Plan from the sending state
- Receiving state may subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement of the student

What is not covered?

- A requirement to provide the exact program/services as the sending state

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Interstate Compact – Placement

What is covered?

- Flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs

What is not covered?

- Mandatory waivers of prerequisites or preconditions

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Interstate Compact – Absences

What is covered?

- Students with parents called to/on leave from/returning from duty shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent
- At the discretion of superintendent – may consider number of prior absences or testing time

Interstate Compact – Graduation Requirements

What is covered?

- Flexibility in waiving courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been completed in another LEA, or providing an alternative means for acquiring coursework so graduation may occur on time
- Should a military student transferring in senior year be ineligible to graduate after all alternatives have been considered, the sending school shall ensure receipt of a diploma, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending school

What is not covered?

- Mandatory waivers of coursework
- Mandatory waiver of exams or acceptance of alternative results
- Requesting a change of graduation requirements in the receiving LEA

Interstate Compact – Graduation Requirements Cont.



Flexibility in accepting sending state exit/end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing

- If student received a passing score on an exit or end-of-course exam (as part of state's accountability system), the student should be given credit and not required to take the SOL
- If student received a passing score on a National norm-referenced achievement test (Terra Nova), the student should be given credit and not required to take the SOL
- Substitute tests approved by the Board -
www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/substitute_tests_verified_credit.pdf

See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/guidance_training/index.shtml for more information.

Resources



Virginia Department of Education Web site

www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/

Includes:

- Guidance Documents – how to interpret the Compact
- Training Materials – brochures, one pagers, etc.
- Virginia Laws Related to the Education of Military Children
- School Liaison Officers Contact Information
- Model Programs & Initiatives
- Military Family Resources



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